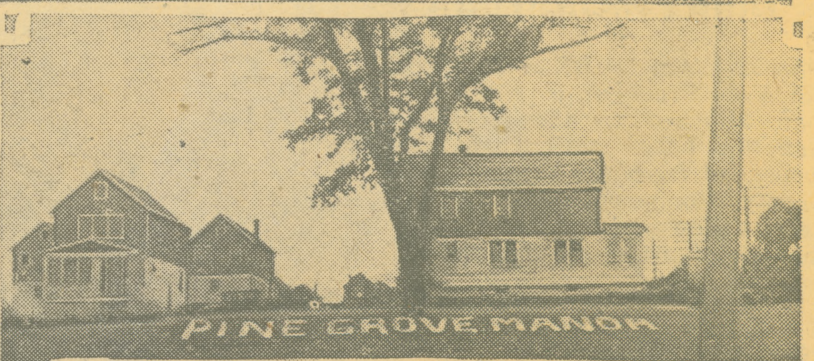
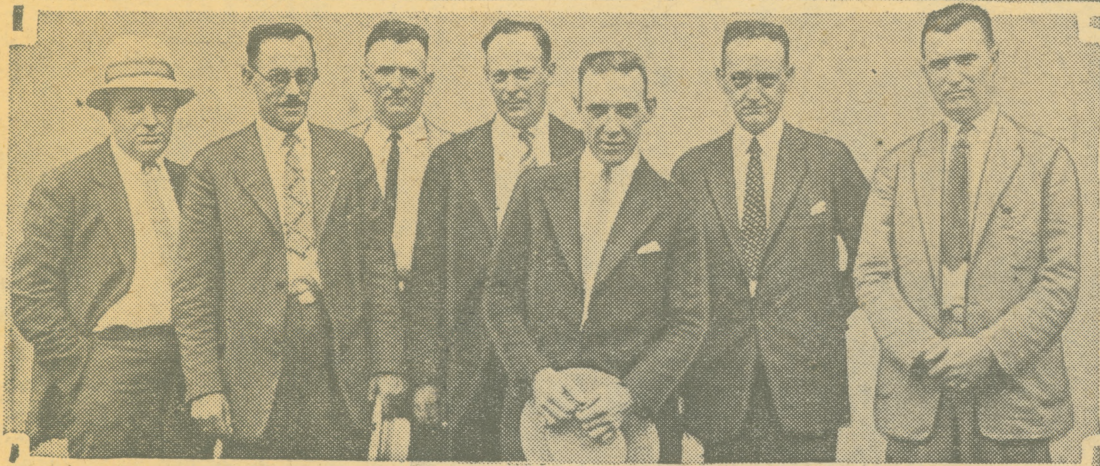


EVIDENCE NOT GREAT, SAYS JUDGE WHO RELEASED MRS. HALL ON BAIL



Widow Laughs in Triumph Over Release From Prison

By LEO J. CASEY

NEW BRUNSWICK, July 31.—Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall is home today, once again triumphant against the accusations of guilt in connection with the deaths of her husband, the Rev. Edward W. Hall, and his pretty choir singer, Mrs. Eleanor Mills.

Charged with the murder, and with the governor of New Jer-



The Late Mrs. Mills

sey personally directing the case against her, the calm, gray-haired woman, secured her release from the Somerset county jail, in Somerville, on \$15,000 bail last night. She faced the milling crowds that waited her, smiled and laughed for the horde of insistent photographers and was whisked to her home here.

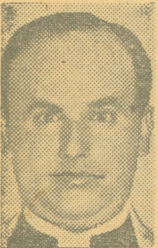
Once within her luxurious Nicol Avenue home, she heard her lawyers gleefully tell of the disappointment of Prosecutor Francis Bergen of Somerset county at her freedom.

Russell E. Watson, her young New Brunswick attorney, and Timothy Pfeiffer, the New York lawyer who has defended her since that day, four years ago, when the bodies of her husband and Mrs. Mills were found together on the old Phillips farm, were overjoyed, but Mrs. Hall said little.

Her triumphs found her unmoved, as in her adversity. She said scarcely anything to the few who kept her company in the home she had built for the husband who proved unfaithful to her.

During the night the voices and movements of newspaper men and a small crowd of the curious seeped into her tightly curtained room. Now and then a flashlight boomed as a strange car drew up to the house. Servants peeked from behind the blinds, showing that the household was late astir.

It was a dramatic moment when the middle-aged widow, dressed en-



Rev. E. W. Hall Rev. J. M. Pettit

tirely in black, emerged from the county jail in Somerville last night on the arm of her attorney.

Since morning she had known

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State Redoubles Efforts to Convict Widow of Rector

The appointment of State Senator Alexander Simpson by Gov.



Gov. Moore

Moore to supersede Prosecutor Bergen in conducting the case makes it evident that the state by no means has abandoned its efforts to convict Mrs. Hall. Rather, they have been redoubled.

Gov. Moore reopened the inquiry and is determined to push it to the finish either to establish Mrs. Hall's guilt or give her a clean bill of health so that the specter of the Hall-Mills murder may be dispelled for all time.

Although Mrs. Hall has been released from Somerset county jail,



William Phillips



Jane Gibson

William Phillips, the reformed burglar and night watchman of the Hall home in 1922, still remains imprisoned. His story was that Mrs. Hall and Willie Stevens returned home on the night of the murder at 2.30 a. m. Mrs. Hall said she left at 2 a. m. for the church at which her husband was rector, and returned at 3.30 a. m. Mrs. Jane Gibson, the "pig woman," further discredited Mrs. Hall's alibi by sticking to her story that she saw the widow at the scene of the murder on the old Phillips farm.

The statement of Prosecutor Bergen that no more arrests would be made in the case seemed nullified by the appointment of State Senator Simpson to supersede him. Capt. J. J. Lamb of the state police, it was noticed, had orders to continue to work on the case.

Prosecutor Shows Disappointment Over Action

By GRAPHIC Staff Correspondent

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., July 31.—Mrs. Frances S. Hall today was assured that the state's case against her was weak after Chief Justice William Gummere of the New Jersey Supreme Court, in admitting her to \$15,000 bail on two murder charges, asserted that no "great evidence or presumption of guilt" had been established by Prosecutor Francis Bergen of Somerset county.

To warrant holding a prisoner without bail, the existence of considerable proof of guilt must be made evident under the New Jersey law. Prosecutor Francis Bergen, who caused Mrs. Hall to be arrested at midnight and who previously had insisted that the importance of his new evidence justified this melodramatic move, offered no urgent reason for keeping Mrs. Hall in jail.

Couldn't Produce

He declined to reveal his evidence against Mrs. Hall when requested to do so by Justice Gummere. For this reason she was admitted to bail so low that many here are being led to believe that she may be indicted by a jury but never convicted of being an accessory to the murder of her husband, the Rev. E. H. Hall, and his pretty choir singer, Mrs. Eleanor Mills, on September 14, 1922.

Her vast wealth and the influence of her powerful relatives, it was pointed out, serve to offset the indifference of the public to her dilemma. For residents of New Brunswick as a whole do not particularly care whether she is in jail or out. She has aroused less sympathy than any other woman who has ever been accused of murder in the state of New Jersey.

Prosecutor Disappointed

Prosecutor Bergen today voiced disappointment over the release of Mrs. Hall.

"The action at Point Pleasant (where Justice Gummere signed the order admitting the widow to bail) was disappointing," he declared. "However, we are continuing to prepare our prosecution of the case. We saw several witnesses today, and I feel sure we will obtain an indictment when the proper time for disclosing the evidence comes."

"There will be no special grand

(Continued on Page 4)



ONE MIGHT WRITE that the old apple orchard isn't what it used to be. The crabapple tree, under which the bodies of the Rev. Dr. Hall and his love, Mrs. Eleanor Mills, were found, is no more. Above, at right, is the same scene today. It is now spotted with new homes and is known as Pine Grove Manor. Below you see the home of Jane Gibson, the "Pig Woman," whose evidence will have a great bearing on the conviction or acquittal of Mrs. Hall. The investigators are John J. Lamb, Major Mark Kimberly, assistant superintendent of state police; County Detective Joseph Hanlon, Prosecutor Francis L. Bergen, Capt. Harry Walsh, Deputy Superintendent Richard Burke and Lieut. William C. Coughlin. (Graphic.)

Simpson to Grill Maid On Fatal Tryst of Lovers

NEW BRUNSWICK, July 31.—One of the first acts of Special Prosecutor Alexander Simpson, appointed by Gov. Moore to direct the prosecution of the Hall-Mills murder case, will be to question Barbara Tough, the Hall parlor maid at the time of the double murder.

Despite her denials, Miss Tough is believed to have been Mrs. Hall's informant of the illicit tryst between the Rev. Edward W. Hall and his companion in death, Mrs. Mills.

On the night of the murder the Tough girl was at the Parker home, Eleanor Mills, his choir singer, near the old Phillips farm, where the bodies were found.

She is said to have seen Dr. Hall make love to the attractive Mrs. Mills, and is believed to have telephoned her mistress. Mrs. Arthur, Riehl, the former Louise Geist, another Hall servant in 1922, swears Barbara was the informant.

Barbara Is Loyal

Barbara Tough is a high type of servant girl and intensely loyal to those she serves. In fact, it is this very sense of loyalty which, with little evidence, would lead investigators to the opinion that she informed Mrs. Hall of her husband's actions.

Mrs. Robert Ross, who now employs Miss Tough in her spacious Livingston Avenue home here, is a staunch defender of the girl. Mrs. Ross, wealthy and socially prom-

inent, is emphatic in her declaration of her maid's fine loyalty.

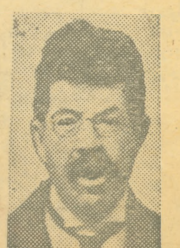
Prosecutor Simpson has received a full report of the servant's connections with the case, and it would not be surprising if she was held as a material witness in September.

That Simpson should also demand the arrest of Willie Stevens, Mrs. Hall's brother, if the prosecution is to appear logical was the opinion voiced today by Timothy Pfeiffer of the widow's counsel.

Pfeiffer pointed out that Willie, by his own testimony, was with Mrs. Hall on the night of the mur-



Barbara Tough



Willie Stevens

der—at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, they claimed.

If his client is guilty, Pfeiffer argues, then Stevens is as deeply involved.